

(21)

~~SECRET~~
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

801-558 3029
May 21, 1956
disapproved
54B
wr

TO : The Secretary

THROUGH: G - Mr. Murphy
S/S

FROM : NEA - William M. Rountree

SUBJECT: Possible Visit of King Saud to the United States

Discussion:

NEA has previously indicated that, at an appropriate time, during following the renegotiation of the Dhahran Airfield Agreement we might wish to invite King Saud to visit the United States. Ambassador Wadsworth confirms other reports we have received of the King's keen interest in receiving such an invitation.

We envision that such an invitation would come in the context of a successful conclusion of the negotiations which are about to commence. The dates of the actual visit could be arranged to fit the convenience of the President and the King, probably in 1957.

Ambassador Wadsworth mentioned the possibility of such a visit to the President when he saw him on May 9 and urged that favorable decision at this time might well assist him in his negotiations, particularly if full accord could not be reached before June 18 when the present agreement expires. The President's reply, while in no sense a commitment, was to the effect that the suggestion had "good points".

We have, therefore, prepared the attached memorandum to the President, suggesting that, if the President concurs, Ambassador Wadsworth be authorized at an appropriate stage in the negotiations of the Dhahran Airfield Agreement, to tell the King that the United States Government would be pleased if, upon the conclusion of the new agreement, Saudi and American ties could be further strengthened by a state visit by His Majesty to the United States.

Recommendation:

That you approve the attached memorandum to the President.

Concurrence:

U/PR - Mr. Simmons

Attachment:

Memorandum to the President

NEA:NE:DDNewsom:rha

5/18/56 *ms*

~~SECRET~~

Beam. DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <i>RAC</i>	DATE <i>2/10/82</i>
REASON FOR EXEMPTION. DATE	
TS AUTH. REASON(S)	
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐	
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE ☒	
RELEASE DENIED ☐	
FA or FOI EXEMPTIONS	

786a.11/5-2156
6/11/82

SECRET

This document consists of 1 pages
No. 1 of 12 Copies, Series 2

28

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Proposed Invitation to King Saud
of Saudi Arabia

We anticipate that, upon the successful conclusion of the Dhahran Airfield Agreement extension, we could further strengthen relations with Saudi Arabia by extending to King Saud an invitation to visit the United States as a State Guest in 1957. The prospect of such a visit would also, in our minds, facilitate a successful extension of the Agreement.

We believe the continuation of good relations with Saudi Arabia, where we have such substantial interests and where so many of our citizens reside and work, is of importance to us and to our Allies. The King's visit here would give us an opportunity to interest him in the contribution the United States has made and can continue to make toward the development of his country.

Although the present King visited the United States in 1946 while he was Crown Prince, he would, if invited, be the first reigning monarch of the country to come to the United States on a State visit.

I would, therefore, if you concur, wish to authorize our Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, at an appropriate stage in the negotiations of the Dhahran Airfield Agreement, to tell the King that the United States Government would be pleased if, upon the conclusion of the new Agreement, Saudi and American ties could be further strengthened by a State visit by His Majesty to the United States.

John Foster Dulles

SECRET

21
J.W. 786 a. 11 / 5-2157